



File Code: 1950-3

Date: December 29, 2009

Dear Friends of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest,

I am pleased to announce the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for Motorized Vehicle Use on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The FEIS discloses the environmental impacts associated with five alternatives for managing motor vehicle use on the Forest. As the Responsible Official, the ROD documents my decision and rationale to select and authorize Alternative 5 (the Preferred Alternative) as described in the FEIS without modification.

Alternative 5 was based on additional analysis and comments received to the Draft EIS that was published in March of this year. I believe Alternative 5 best meets the purpose and need of enacting the Travel Management Rule and providing for a designated and managed system for motorized use on this Forest.

I recognize my decision will not meet 100 percent of the public interests and desires. I know some of the public will find roads and trails unauthorized (closed) for motorized use that they believe should be open, and some will find some open roads and trails they believe should be closed. The competing desires truly come from deep appreciation of National Forest System lands and the particular activities people enjoy. I am confident this decision is a more reasoned and balanced decision because of public involvement during the planning process.

The FEIS and ROD paper copy or compact disc is enclosed as requested. For those of you who indicated you wanted to view the document on the Internet, the FEIS and ROD are on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/travel/index.shtml>

Five alternatives are considered in detail in the Final EIS, including No-Action. The alternatives provided for varying amounts of motorized use on the Forest. The alternatives were developed from the Significant Issues identified in the FEIS: Effects on Water Quality and Erosion, Effects on Botanical Areas and Special Plant Habitats, Effects on Public Safety, Effects on Motorized Opportunities, and Effects on Roadless Character within Inventoried Roadless Areas. Beyond the above listed five Significant Issues, eighteen other issues are also analyzed in the FEIS. All issues are based upon public and agency comments received during the on-going scoping and comment process or are related to satisfying Federal, State, and local requirements and standards. All of these issues were also taken into account in my decision.



This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR 215. The 45-day appeal period begins the day following the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the Newspaper of Record for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Medford's *Mail Tribune*. I anticipate the legal notice to appear in the newspaper on January 22, 2010. Further details on the appeal review process are located in the Record of Decision at pages 16 and 17.

Please feel free to contact Linda Duffy, Planning Staff Officer at the Medford Interagency Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 (541-618-2200) or Steve Johnson, Team Leader at the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, OR 97520 (541) 552-2900.

Respectfully Yours,

  
SCOTT D. CONROY  
Forest Supervisor